

## REMARKS

Applicant traverses the objection to the specification and the § 112, first paragraph rejection of the claims that the term “preventing” is new matter.

Nevertheless, in order to move this case forward, applicant has amended the term “preventing” to “inhibiting,” thereby rendering moot the objection and rejection.

Applicant traverses the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 16, and 19-22 over Isono '882, and the § 103(e) rejection of claims 3-4, 7, 11, 17, and 18 over Isono '882 in view of Isono '881. In the present invention, among other things, a master cut valve is provided between a brake cylinder and a front pressurizing chamber, and a brake pressure control device is provided between the master cut valve and the brake cylinder. The control device controls fluid pressure in the brake cylinder based on a brake operation in a closed state of the master cut valve. Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, and 16-18 to reflect these features of the invention.

Isono '882 does not disclose or suggest these features, and does not disclose that a brake pressure control device is provided downstream of the master cylinder. For at least these reasons, Isono '882 cannot anticipate the claims, and cannot suggest these features, alone or in combination with Isono '881.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 6, 8-10, and 13-15, but believes it is premature to amend these claims to be independent claims until the Examiner considers the above amendments and arguments.

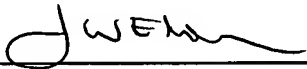
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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